Fifth World Spices Congress in Mumbai

321. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth World Spices Congress was organised at Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the highlights of the three-day deliberations on trade-oriented subjects; and

(c) the achievements made by the Spices Board to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fifth World Spices Congress was held at Mumbai from 27th to 29th January, 2000. The theme of the congress was "Spices to Food: New Trends, New Dimensions". During the event following three business sessions were held in which presentations were made by competent speakers:—

(i) Crops and Markets

(ii) Spices and Food

(iii) Competencies and Capabilities.

(c) The Spice Congress, jointly organised by All India Spices Exporters Forum and Spices Board, has emerged as one of the most important event in the spices sector as evident from growing global as well as domestic response. This Congress was attended by about 150 overseas delegates from 37 countries and 250 Indian delegates. Apart from presentations and deliberations during the business sessions, the Congress offered an excellent opportunity for Indian exporters to meet and directly interact with importers of major spices importing countries.

Protection to domestic industries against MNCs

322. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to save the domestic industries from the onslaught of MNCs due to indiscriminate liberalisation and globalisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly for consumer industries and agro-based industries, such as jute, textiles, sugar and tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment is not